



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR BETH DELBUONO

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2020

RECEIVED TOWN RECORDS
FEBRUARY 17, 2020

2020 FEB 18 PM 12:55

James E. Krupinski
Town Clerk

Mayor DelBuono called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room L-101

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Anest
Councilor Braverman
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor Camillo
Councilor Donahue
Councilor Manke
Councilor Miner
Councilor Nagel
Mayor DelBuono

Staff Attendees:

Keith Chapman, Town Manager
Gary Fuerstenberg, Town Engineer
James E. Krupinski, Town Clerk
Susan Gibbon, Council Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Councilor Manke to approve the agenda, as amended. Seconded by Councilor Anest.
Motion passed 9-0. Councilor Manke made a motion to add Item VIII. D - MDC support.

IV. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS

A. 2019 Volunteer of the Year – Fernando G. Rosa

Motion by Mayor DelBuono

WHEREAS, each year the Town Council recognizes someone who has voluntarily dedicated time and/or resources for the benefit of others and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, this year Fernando G. Rosa is being recognized for his active and continuing involvement with so many local, state-wide, national and international organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa is a current member of the Development Commission in addition to previously serving as the Chairman, a Justice of the Peace, a Notary Public a member of the Democratic Town Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa is a member of the Newington Portuguese Club, serving previously as a Director and as President of the General Assembly of the Portuguese Club of Newington and

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currently serves as financial advisor for the reconstruction of the Newington Portuguese Club due to the December, 2017 fire; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa served as the Chairman of the Board of Catholic Charities, United Way Allocations Committee Chairman, on the Economic Council of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, and former President of the Rancho Folclorico of the Portuguese Club of Hartford; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa has served two terms as President of the Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS), and the former Chairman of the Economic Development Commission in Wethersfield. He was also a Volunteer of the Year recipient while residing in Wethersfield; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa is a former President of the Portuguese American Leadership Council of the United States (PALCUS), in addition to his current position of Director he also served as Chairman for 9 ½ years and Treasurer for 2 years. He also provides, with his son Marc, a national scholarship to provide stimulus to students learning Portuguese and supports the Portuguese School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa created an endowed scholarship at Central Connecticut State University(CCSU) in memory of his late wife Graciette; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa is a Co-Founder, current Director and former President of the Portuguese Foundation, Inc. He serves as a Corporator for Catholic Charities and the Village for Children and Families and he has served as a CCD Teacher, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa writes a weekly column for the national newspaper Luso Americano and the Hartford news. He also hosts three radio programs weekly on WFAR-FM, WWUH-FM and RDVE; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa has been recognized by the Government of Portugal and awarded the title “Comendador of the Order of Merit” receiving the insignias from the President of Portugal among many other recognitions from his volunteer efforts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosa truly personifies what it means to volunteer to improve the lives of all individuals locally, nationally and internationally; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

that the Newington Town Council hereby recognizes Fernando G. Rosa as its 2019 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of his volunteer activities for the welfare of the community and for serving as a positive role model and an example of all that can be accomplished through the spirit of volunteerism.

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0.

- Mr. Rosa stated that is a pleasure and an honor to be here and presented this award. Mother always said “in life give more than you get” you will much happier. I give a little, in the long run we can create a better community and better world. To all who serve, I encourage you to continue. Thank you to all who nominated me for this award. Thank you very much.
- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that it is a pleasure to be here and happy to see Fernando receive this award.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that he is very humble when he stated he gave a little – gives a lot; not only does Mr. Rosa volunteer in our town, but in the state and internationally as well.
- Councilor Braverman stated that Newington is a more international inclusive town because of his efforts, people respect you and you bring another level of involvement to our citizens.
- Councilor Manke congratulated Mr. Rosa on his volunteerism. That is what makes Newington so special. In December we call for nominations for Volunteer of the Year, its amazing on how many applications we receive.

- Councilor Anest stated that she has known Fernando for many years. Know what you do for our community and state, not aware of your international work. Thank you for all you do for our community. Congratulations.
- Councilor Nagel stated that Mr. Rosa has accomplished many things during his volunteerism. Have a soft spot for the Portuguese club; have attended many functions there. Wish you well on rebuilding.
- Mr. Rosa thanked everyone for their kind words. Next project is to rebuild the Portuguese club and to make sure Newington has that to benefit from.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that truly when we have proclamation they are not that long. You are a role model and all those things you have done are wonderful and encouraging others to do the same, we thank you for that.

V. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive asked everyone to speak into the mics. Not one for Facebook; did not see on tonight's agenda regarding a search committee for a town manager; understand it not one; last time had put in a lot of work; but went with who we already had. Have been attending CIP meetings; last week there have been three meetings that did not happen. At one time Councilor Nagel stated that Robert Blank requested signs at the crosswalks at the Senior Center; has anything happened with that?
- Dave Tedeschi, 12 Isabelle Terrace stated that at this time more than 40 million people are trapped into the world of human trafficking across the globe. By definition it is the illegal sale of human beings for sexual exploitation or forced labor. While the awareness has been raised in recent years, most people are unaware of how widespread the problem is. It occurs everywhere, including our own backyards with roads like the Berlin Turnpike and Silas Deane Highway with miles of motels and hotels. In 2018 the CT Department of Children and Families HART team received 210 referrals for sex trafficking of minors – 27 were males and 133 were minors living at home during their exploitation with parents or guardians not suspecting a thing. Two years ago the Newington Rotary Club initiated a Stop the Traffic Project to bring awareness and education to the community. We hold public forums, hosted fundraisers and more. On Thursday, February 13th, we ask you to join us and freedom fighters around the world, we ask you to draw a red x on our hand and posit it on social media at #enditmovement. Jillian Gilchrest and Gary Turco have invited us to the State Capital on Thursday to mark a red x on the hands of legislators, etc. We will also be doing this same thing at Lucy Robbins Library from 10 am – 5 pm. School Superintendent Brummett has asked high school Principal Tigno to allow willing students to mark their hands as well during home room. Imagine if this town council will do the same; hope you will do that and post it on Thursday. Help us to raise awareness.

VI. **REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Councilor Nagel stated that the last meeting was cancelled because the meeting was not posted properly. There have been difficulties with getting everyone together and have been working with the finance director on trying to find a good time.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she applauds the Rotary for their work for taking on making people aware of human trafficking. It is very lucrative and dangerous. It is important, and wouldn't it be great if 50-60% of Newington residents take this on.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we did enter into a 6-month contract with Mr. Chapman. This council does need to make a determination on whether we will conduct a search and that will be part of the agenda and as discussion will be held at this table. Waiting for the dust to settle first. Regarding the crosswalk, I remember that coming up. Mr. Chapman please follow up with the police station. Mr. Tedeschi, thank you for coming here tonight, I did reach out to

you after you sent me literature regarding this and thought this would be a good way to get your message out there. Often difficult subjects like this are swept under the rug, and it is something we need to take notice of. I pledge to you that I will wear a red x on Thursday and we will take a picture and post it on Thursday.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)

A. Town Hall Project Update

- Town Manager Chapman stated that he is pleased to report that the project is moving along on budget and on schedule. Looking into the logistics of moving – we have 10-days to move. There is a lot going on that week – there is the Extravaganza, tax collection going on that month, day camp for P&R. Furniture needs to be placed and files need to be moved. Lots of things going on. Plan on moving extra items from this building to a storage area and that will be auctioned off; will have more information when we get closer to the time. It is moving along.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she has received inquiries as to what will happen to the furniture and fixtures that will not be used in the new building. Will Newington residents be able to purchase it? Will other departments be utilizing the items?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that they are discussing what will happen to extra items; no determination has been made as of yet. The plan is to move everything to a warehouse where an auction will be held. Not sure if it will be public or company.
- Mayor DelBuono thanked Mr. Chapman for doing such a good job with this project.

B. Discussion-Facility Presentation & Proposal Review

- Mayor DelBuono stated that she asked Suzanne Black, Executive Vice President of Operations for OR&L, and Robert Roach, Vice President of Friar Architects to attend tonight's meeting for any follow up questions.
- Ms. Black stated that two weeks ago we presented our proposal to the town council. Bob Roach is here with me as well to answer any questions you may have.
- Mayor DelBuono stated the list of buildings include our park facilities and buildings.
- Councilor Manke asked how the process works.
- Mr. Roach stated that first they will speak with town staff regarding known issues. Then we will go in with our team, verify existing conditions (architectural, structural, etc.) and as we do that we are working with Owens and CREC. Owens is going to be very instrumental in looking at energy savings and conservation. Think about recommendations, future needs, etc. We will take photographs, etc. and include them in our report to you.
- Ms. Black stated that they will be helping to initiate and implement the findings from Friar while the assessments are being done on all of your building. It is expected to take at least 6-months for the complete assessment on all the buildings.
- Councilor Budrejko asked if you did an overall assessment of the park itself, the sidewalks, etc., not just the buildings.
- Mr. Roach stated that it is listed on the report.
- Councilor Camillo asked if the old town hall building was included in the contract (very difficult to hear).
- Mr. Roach stated that it was not.
- Councilor Nagel asked if the report will list projects in a "pecking order," are they going to be grouped or it is a general recommendations.
- Mr. Roach stated that we group them in 1-5 years, or immediate needs first or 5-10 years, or CIP. We can do it a number of different ways. We can do roofs all at once, or just do one building at a time. Will prioritize across the board.
- Councilor Camillo asked that they look at the current town hall first.

- Ms. Black stated that they can modify their proposal, will look for direction from town. Goal is top know what you want to od and what your priorities are.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that if they do decide to execute an agreement with Owens, it will be the town manager that oversees that process with guidance from the council. My understanding is that this building is going to be the new parking area. My suggestion is that unless something changes, this building will not be included in the assessment.
- Councilor Anest asked if this was a package deal or can we do one without the other.
- Ms. Black stated they put the proposal together as stated in the RFP which included both services and feel that the team approach will provide the best value and most beneficial outcome for the town by working in partnership on both the operational cost savings and the assessment of your buildings. It is something we can discuss.
- Councilor Donahue stated that it was one RFP with two separate components. We can implement the facilities piece first and we what kind of shape were are in and then possibly get the facilities person.
- Ms. Black stated that they are open and flexible to those discussions.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she is looking at the RFP and it states Requesting Proposal for Facilities Service to assist the town in administering its properties and buildings and it also states it is accepting proposal for the condition of all. That was done was separated out that way because the council as a whole wasn't quite sure what direction we were going to go in for the Facilities Manager piece; whether we were going to look inhouse or see what is out there. It makes sense to have them both at the same time and understand that. The item tonight on our agenda is just for the assessment piece.
- Councilor Manke stated that the key is how we proceed with the information we receive. Dealing with it from crisis to crisis is not a good way to proceed.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the resolution states for the assessment to be done first.
- Councilor Anest asked what the time line will be.
- Mr. Roach stated that is takes approximately 4-6 months.
- Councilor Budrejko asked once the contact is signed, how long will it take for you to start.
- Mr. Roach stated that they can have someone available within two weeks after the contact is signed.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the amount for the assessment piece is \$125,000.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes Keith Chapman, Town Manager to execute a contract with Owens Realty Services for the performance of a Town-wide Facilities Assessment Report covering all Town and School Buildings, to include all Park Facilities and Structures.

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

C. Update to Town Council Rules & Procedures

- Councilor Manke stated that the committee worked on amending these rules. There was a question of whether or not we have members of the public provide their name and address prior to speaking; out town clerk looked into that and we can request that. We did also talk at length about letters. We are requesting that letters be submitted 24-hours prior to the meeting. The other issue regarding the letters is that we will not read any of the letters, however, they will be part of the public record, but only the names and addresses will be read during the meeting. We will this is a good compromise, especially if there is an abundance of letters.

- Councilor Anest asked if these rules and procedures apply to other committees (i.e. CIP) as well?
- Town Clerk stated that all subcommittees follow these rules if they do not have rules of their own.
- Councilor Camillo asked about Section 14 – Councilor Expectations. I have a 24-hour business and a kid at home. My wife may need to get in touch with me and I need to answer them. I will do my best, I can't say I won't have it in my hands at times.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she understands the need to have a phone with us. But just to try not to look at it during meetings is the expectation. I have family obligations as well and if I need to take a call, I will leave the room.
- Councilor Miner stated he has a 24-hour business as well, sometimes the phone rings. We don't want anyone sitting here looking at their phone all night.
- Councilor Donahue stated that he finds it easy if he puts his phone in airplane mode.

Motion by Councilor Donahue

WHEREAS: the Newington Town Council amends its Rules of Procedure on an as-needed basis; and

WHEREAS: the Rules of Procedure document was last amended on May 10, 2016;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Newington Town Council hereby amends its Rules of Procedure as indicated on the attached amended document.

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0.

D. Appropriation Transfer-Serial Bond Interest

- Mayor DelBuono stated that at our last meeting Janet Murphy explained that there is Serial Bond Interest we can use and we can transfer it to the General Fund and to the Town Hall Improvements FF&E.

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the CIP Fund, the amounts listed below.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11014-8220	Serial Bond Interest	\$475,666.67

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the CIP Fund to the following account:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
31110-8550	Transfer to the General Fund	\$475,666.67

Seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0.

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the General Fund, the amount listed below.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11014-8220	Serial Bond Interest	\$315,000.00

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the General Fund to the following account:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
31110-88804	Town Hall Improvements	\$315,000.00

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

E. Appropriation Transfer – Indian Hill Roof Repair

- Mayor DelBuono stated that at our last meeting Janet Murphy explained that the town charter allows appropriation transfer from one department to another in the last 6-months of the fiscal year. She is looking for us to transfer from the closure of CIP accounts in the amount of \$238,400 into the account for IHCC roof repair and roof top units.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he visited IHCC and there are defiantly problems with the roof and the water is seeping into the walls and the problem needs to be addressed.

Motion by Councilor Braverman

CERTIFICATION:

In accordance with Section 808 of the Town Charter, I hereby certify that there exists, free from encumbrances, in the following appropriations in the General Fund, the amounts listed below.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10151-7002	Transfer from General Fund	\$238,400.00

Janet Murphy, Director of Finance

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby transfers the above-certified funds in the General Fund to the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
31110	Indian Hill Country Club Roof Repair	\$138,400.00
31110	Indian Hill Country Club Rooftop Units	\$100,000.00

Seconded by Councilor Miner. Motion passed 9-0.

F. Complete Streets Project Presentation

- Gary Fuerstenberg, Town Engineer gave an updated presentation on the Complete Streets project for Robbins Avenue from Main Street, to Maple Hill Avenue. Not a streetscapes project. It is multi-mode transportation corridor (vehicle, bike, pedestrian). There will be very little construction impacts to the residents. Design impacts – bike lanes (with no parking in the park lanes); there will be left turn lanes between Maple Hill and Willard. We will be doing some widening in some areas. At the intersection of Robbins and Main we will be adding a right turn lane and will be moving the bus stop down the green further. (This will be done only with approval from the DOT.) At the town meeting there were approx. 10 residents in attendance. One resident has requested a neighborhood meeting. The letters we sent out were only to those adjacent to Robbins. The Golf Street / Thompson Street residents will be most impacted by the changes to the corridor. One resident requested rapid flashing beacons at the crosswalks, will check to see whether or

not they will be cost prohibitive. There will be no increased traffic within the project corridor. The largest impact will be an alignment change at the Golf and Vivian. Will close Golf Street and move the turn into that area on Thompson.

- Mayor DelBouno asked with the residents on Thompson Street were notified of the alignment change.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that the residents were notified of the project and I am willing to reach out and have a neighborhood meeting regarding this as well.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that those 3-houses will lose the traffic that turned on to Golf.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that the increase is mitigated by the decrease. Very sensitive to the needs of the neighborhood.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that the changes are substantial, and at the first meeting these were not indicated. In your next meeting, bullet the changes so they know what is happening.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that he will be more detailed in his next letter to residents. There is a mailbox here that gets a lot of use, we may include a turn around here for convenience. Want your general consensus that this is the route we go with. Any improvement we make is not going to please everybody. At the green at Robbins Avenue and Main Street we will be making improvements to the sidewalks and making grading improvements and to do that, we will be cutting down trees. The bus stop will also be move 200 feet to the west to accommodate the bus making a left hand turn at the intersection.
- Councilor Manke asked if they could plant trees for the ones taken down.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that he will make a note of that.
- Councilor Braverman asked if all of the sidewalks, etc. will be wheelchair accessible.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that at all sidewalk entrances there will be sidewalk ramps. They will do their best to provide ramps as flat as possible.
- Councilor Nagel asked where the bus stop was being moved to and if that would have any impact on the residents.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that is the best area to put the bus stop; still within the green area.
- Councilor Miner stated that one of the selling points was to eliminate the four lanes, will they be doing it from the center left turn lane or blocking the traffic?
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that we are not providing left hand turn lanes for driveways, but for roadways only. Having a center turn lane will be safer for residents.
- Councilor Miner asked if he looked at how the Silas Deane Highway has the opposing traffic using the same space.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg looked on Google Maps and did not see that functionality. Did not personally drive it. We are providing dedicated left turn lanes. A lengthy discussion was held regarding left turn lanes.
- Councilor Miner stated that because this is a DOT funded project, it is costing double. There are a lot of road improvements and ADA upgrades.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that is not true and that they have detailed cost estimates. Cannot compare this to a simple mill and overlay.
- Councilor Budrejko asked if the \$2 million grant will cover everything.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated yes, that will cover the cost and cost inspection.
- Councilor Miner stated that this was a 100% grant with the expectation that the town would perform engineering in-house.
- Mr. Fuerstenberg stated that the town has done a lot of work on this project. More than happy to do a neighborhood meeting for those most impacted by this project.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that she appreciates Mr. Fuerstenberg be willing to do that.

G. Town Manager Contract Adoption

- Mayor DelBuono stated that purpose of this is to make the contract with Town Manager Chapman public record and filed in the town clerk's office.

Motion by Councilor Manke

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby ratifies the negotiated Contract between Keith Chapman, Town Manager and the Town of Newington. A copy of the contract shall be filed in the Town Clerk's Office and attached to this Resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)

A. OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program

- Town Manager Chapman stated that this is an opportunity for the town to provide funding for a study to be done dealing with the proposed rail station in Newington. It is a program that CROG is sponsoring through state funding and our portion will be used for the design of the structure and appearance in the area.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that Newington will provide 20% of the funding and CROG will cover the rest.
- Councilor Miner asked what that number would be?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that it would be \$10,000.
- Councilor Budrejko asked since this is being orchestrated through CROG, do we use any control over the project and what we want to see? Would we have 100% control?
- Town Manager Chapman stated that we will work with the architect and have input into it. I would think that working with an architect we will have input.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she wants to make sure that Newington keeps its vision and CROG will not be taking control.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that the town would work closely with the architect to meet our requirements.
- Councilor Camillo stated that we have the opportunity to possibly redevelop Newington center. Can this grant help there as far as getting a vision?
- Town Manager Chapman stated no, that it is really dedicated to transportation.
- Councilor Camillo stated that at our POCD this may take away from the town center.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he hasn't heard that.
- Councilor Anest stated that this is more of conceptual in nature. A designer does not have to follow this.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that this is intended to help design and market the train station.
- Councilor Miner stated that we are not bound by this.
- Councilor Camillo stated that our goal is to keep businesses in town, by doing that you are taking them out.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that in terms of the development of that area, we will have more input later on in that area, but right now we are looking to decide we want to approve the application for a grant. This will be on our agenda for our next meeting.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that last year we went through this whole TVDD vision, it was visionary but pretty specific. How does this work with that?
- Town Manager Chapman stated he was not aware of that, he will look into it?
- Councilor Braverman asked the town manager if he contacted Central regarding this.

- Town Manager Chapman stated that he has not, for this grant no input is needed at this time.
 - Councilor Nagel stated that this is a show of support for the train station project
- B. Sale of Town Property-§8-24 Referral-Portion of 88 Stamm Road
- Town Manager Chapman stated that there is a request from a property owner for access to Stamm Road from his property that faces New Britain Avenue, rear lot. Have a drive going out to Stamm Road. Suggest that the council do an 8-24 to the TPZ and not have any other action at this time.
 - Councilor Budrejko asked if we were selling the property.
 - Town Manager Chapman stated that it would be only for a driveway on the property.
 - Councilor Anest stated that the memo states purchase the property.
 - Town Manager Chapman states that the town provide an easement; no need to sell the property.
 - Mayor DelBuono stated that the purchase of town property is something that needs to be discussed at a future meeting.
- C. Update on Town-wide Blight Enforcement Efforts
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he has been driving around town taking a look at infrastructure on town properties, as well as private properties, to make sure our town is attractive as possible for businesses and residents. In my drive around I do see blight and I report it to our blight officer who then follows up with corrective action. I have found a dozen sites that are blight or zoning infractions. Some areas of town are clean and others not so much. Any blight is a negative for the town. Want to make sure all of residents and businesses keep their properties clean and neat.
 - Councilor Miner asked if he had any luck with bank owned blighted properties.
 - Town Manager Chapman stated that he has not. Bank don't seem to take interest in properties they take back; end up with properties worse off than before they took them back. So, no, it is not a good situation.
 - Councilor Nagel asked if the town manager feels the need for the Blight Committee to meet anytime in the near future.
 - Town Manager Chapman stated that based on what he has seen, we are in pretty good shape. Don't want to have a committee get together and spend time unnecessarily. If in the future I find a major problem, we may want to have a meeting. But at this time the Blight officer can handle things.
 - Councilor Nagel asked the town manager if he has had the opportunity to look over the existing ordinances for blight and have any changes?
 - Town Manager Chapman stated that he has looked over the blight ordinance and it appears that it is workable. I have been advised that one situation has been going on for a number of years and I want to talk with our town attorney about that. Where the weakness is and see if it is something that can be overcome without changing the ordinance but with a different interpretation.
 - Councilor Nagel stated that this is to help the residents understand what blight is.
 - Town Manager Chapman stated that, in his experience, having me or another town employee be the complainant, if your neighborhood has blight and you live next door to it, it is tough to complain about your neighbor, it can cause bad feelings. If I am the complainant, they can get mad at me. You don't want blight taking over
- D. MDC Support
- Mayor DelBuono stated that they received emails from the MDC regarding the long term control plan and DEEP not paying their bills to the MDC. This council previously supported the MDC's efforts of an integrated planning concept as part of the revised

LTCP during the December 27, 2018 meeting. Mayor DelBuono read the letter to Representatives Lopes, Turco and Woods and Senator Lessor into the record [attached hereto]

- Councilor Manke stated that it is his understanding that other towns have provided similar letters to their state representatives.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that Rocky Hill and Berlin are voting on it; much of the language for the letter was provided to her by them.

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

The Newington Town Council, in accordance with the Town Council, Rules of Procedure, §12 Voting, adopted May 10, 2016, hereby moves to allow action on Additional Agenda Item 1, New Business VIII.D to request State Legislators to Support the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) efforts.

Seconded by Councilor Manke. Motion passed 9-0.

Motion by Councilor Anest

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby requests that State Representatives Lopes, Turco & Wood and Senator Lessor support the efforts of the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), as outlined in the attached letter with attachments, dated February 11, 2020 and executed by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Newington.

Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

Public Participation

- None

IX. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)

- None

X. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

A. Approval of February 11, 2020 Refund for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Councilor Budrejko

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,967.90 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Braverman. Motion passed 9-0.

XI. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilor Manke to accept the minutes of the above referenced meeting. Seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

XII. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

- None

XIII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Nagel stated that the library board met last night. Their Winterfest was very successful, \$2,000 than last year. The board is considering an awareness plan, not only how to get to it, but the possible expansion/renovation of the library.
- Councilor Miner stated that Fire Marshal Schroeder retired. Deputy Fire Marshal Guy Pelletier was appointed the permanent Fire Marshal.
- Councilor Budrejko stated that she read an article in this weekend's Hartford Courant. It states that Newington, through CROG, agreed to be part of a bike, electric scooter ride share program. It states that East Hartford, Hartford, New Britain, Newington, and Manchester will be part of this program and have agreed to work with Zagster, a scooter ride sharing company. Apparently a dozen other towns expressed interest. It should have come before the council. Last year LIME Bike did not prove to be beneficial for Hartford and was not something Newington wanted to endeavor. Would like to know who agreed to this and why it hadn't come before the council first. Newington is not a bike friendly community.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he will look into this. You are correct, Newington doesn't have a lot of bike lanes. If we are going to do something like this, it should be done with foresight and planning.

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (**In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736**) (3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive stated that her plea for speaking into the mics doesn't make a difference since they are not working. Understand why CIP meetings were not held, someone needs to explain the CIP itself, how it is funded, how they come back – have seen the circle. We have the public school CIP and the parks & rec CIP. There are lot of questions that need to be answered and explained. There has been a lot of chatter on Facebook about Anna Reynolds, at the last BOE meeting there was a rush to get it on the agenda, rules were waived and nothing has come from the BOE to the council regarding Anna Reynolds. Main and Robbins is a big consideration and it is a disaster waiting to happen

XV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

- Councilor Budrejko stated that she wanted to remind everyone about the red x.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the red x is Thursday, Feb 13th and to be posted on social media with #enditmovement

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Manke to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Camillo. Motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Gibbon
Council Clerk